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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/059,325	01/31/2002	Hideki Akiyama	0505-0949P	5566

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BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH  
PO BOX 747  
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

TORRES, MELANIE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3683

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/059,325

Applicant(s)

AKIYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Melanie Torres

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5,6,9-12,14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4,7,8,13,16 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 1 objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 4-5 is awkward. It is suggested that in line 4, the word "is" be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ichikawada et al.

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Re claims 1 and 9, Ichikawa et al. teaches a shock absorbing structure (45) for a two-wheeled vehicle including a shock absorbing member projecting from a vehicular body (11), wherein shock is absorbed by crashing the shock absorbing member comprising a front end of the shock absorbing located in front of a front wheel (13), an upper end of the shock absorbing member located at such a position that the upper end of the shock absorbing member does not block a forward viewing area for the driver, a center of a leading end contact surface of the shock absorbing member located at a position higher than a vertical position of a center of gravity of both the vehicle and the driver and wherein right and left side surfaces of the shock absorbing member are offset to a center of a vehicular body from right and left side surfaces of the vehicular body.

Re claims 2 and 10, Ichikawa et al. teaches wherein the shock absorbing member (45) includes a plurality of reinforcing ribs (46, 47, 48, 49, 53) formed for absorbing the shock.

Re claims 3 and 11, Ichikawa et al. teaches wherein the plurality of reinforcing ribs includes ribs (51) with partially thinned sections for facilitating the absorption of the shock as ribs 51 are thinner than sections 46 and 47 .

Re claims 5, 12 and 14, Ichikawa et al. teaches wherein the plurality of reinforcing ribs (46, 47, 48, 49, 53) are arranged to be bilaterally symmetric with respect to an axis of the shock absorbing member.

Re claims 6 and 15, Ichikawa et al. teaches wherein the plurality of ribs (46, 47, 48, 49, 53) are divided into a plurality of sections within the shock absorbing member for sequentially absorbing a shock.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 4, 7, 8, 13, 16 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

McFadden et al., Casse, Campen and Bricmont et al. teach shock absorbing structures for vehicles.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melanie Torres whose telephone number is (703)305-0293. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Lavinder can be reached on (703)308-3421. The fax phone numbers

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-2571 for regular communications and (703)308-2571 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1113.

MT  
August 24, 2002

  
JACK LAVINDER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600  
8/26/02